

University of Tikrit

College of Education for Women

English Department

Subject: Writing in Paragraphs

1st year

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Develop paragraphs with descriptive vocabulary

Lecture 3

In this unit, we will learn

- develop paragraphs with descriptive vocabulary
- use lists to brainstorm
- learn to edit lists
- combine sentence containing adjectives

Develop paragraphs with descriptive vocabulary

As you know that a topic sentence tells the main idea of a paragraph. Supporting sentences develop the paragraph by adding more information. When you describe a place, you can develop your paragraph by adding descriptive details- information that tells how a place looks, sounds, smells, or feels.

Here we have some adjectives that can describe places. Put them into the chart below. Remember some words can be used in more than one place:

dark	friendly	musical	soft
dry	green	quiet	spicy
exciting	humid	relaxed	sweet
fragrant	loud	sharp	warm

Look	Sound	Smell	Feel
dark	exciting	fragrant	dry
dry	friendly	sharp	exciting
exciting	loud	spicy	humid
friendly	musical	sweet	sharp
green	quiet		relaxed
quiet	relaxed		soft
relaxed			warm
sharp			
soft			
sweet			
warm			

Use lists to brainstorm

<u>Brainstorming</u>: is a way of gathering ideas about a topic. You cannot write if you don't have something to write about. So, before good writers start to write, they brainstorm ideas (they think of and write down ideas that they can use).

You will learn three types of brainstorming: making a list, freewriting, and mapping.

• How to make a list:

- Use a separate, whole sheet of paper.
- Write your topic at the top.
- Write down as many ideas as you can about your topic.
- Write single words or short phrases, but don't write long sentences.
- Write down every idea that comes to you, and don't worry about whether the ideas are 'good' or 'bad'.

Learn to edit lists

• Editing your list:

After you brainstorm, you need to go back and see which ideas you can use. This is called *editing*.

- Underline or highlight the good ideas.
- Cross out ideas that are not related to your topic or that you don't want to use.

This example shows a list of a paragraph (Relaxing at the Beach):

Beach

Vacation
relax
air-hot, dry, windy?
water-cold, cool, fresh, wet
swim, surf
can't windsurf
seagulls
good snack food
beach umbrellas / expensive to rent
too far away
smell-salt, suntan lotion

sounds-birds, children, ocean waves

feel - sand

After you write a list, you need to go back and see which ideas you can use.
 Underline or highlight the good ideas. Cross out ideas that are not related to your topic.

Combine sentence containing adjectives

To make more varied and interesting sentences, you can:

• combine the adjectives in two sentences with *and* or *but*. Remove the subject and verb from the second sentence.

and

Example: The film was long. The film was boing.

The film was long and boing.

but

Our homework is difficult. Our homework is fun to do.

Our homework is difficult, but fun to do.

 Combine three sentences. Notice how a comma is used between the first two adjectives. Remove the subjects and verbs from the second and third sentences.

, and

Example: Her skirt was short. It was black. It was fashionable.

Her skirt was short, black and fashionable.

Practice writing paragraph

On a separates sheet of paper, write your completed paragraph about (A Horrible Hotel):

- First make a list of details you could add to the paragraph. This is an imaginary place, so use your imagination!
- Write a topic sentence.
- Combine sentences to make it more interesting.